GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4837
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2003
ONGC AGREEMENT WITH CIL FOR COAL BED METHANE GAS
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) andCoal India Ltd.(CIL) have signed contracts for the exploration and production of Coal Bed methane (CBM) gas in the country.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the particulars of CBM Block contracts signed till date for the exploration and production of CBM in the country;

(d) whether there exists any CBM block in Maharashtra;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which a contract is to be signed for the exploration and production of CBM in Maharashtra?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar)

(a)&(b):- Government has signed contracts with a consortium of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Coal India Ltd. (CIL) in respect of two Coal Bed Methane (CBM) blocks viz. Jharia in Jharkhand and Raniganj in West Bengal for exploration and Production of CBM.

(c) Till date, the Government has signed contracts for eight CBM blocks as per the details given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of Block	State	Awardee Contractor
1.	Bokaro	Jharkhand	ONGC-Indian Oil Corporation
2.	North Karanpura	Jharkhand	ONGC-IOC
3.	Sohagpur (East)	Madhya Pradesh	Reliance Industries Ltd.
4.	Sohagpur(West)	Madhya Pradesh	Reliance Industries Ltd.
5.	Raniganj (East)	West Bengal	Essar Oil Ltd.
6.	Raniganj (North)	West Bengal	ONGC-CIL
7	Jharia	Jharkhand	ONGC-CIL
8.	Raniganj (South)	West Bengal	Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd.

(d) to (f):- The identification and award of CBM blocks from the States having CBM potential,including Maharashtra, on the basis of international competitive bidding, for Exploration and Production of CBM is a continuous and ongoing process.The contracts are signed after completion of the process of award and subsequent negotiations with the awardee companies for which no time limit can be given.